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April 28, 2005 LB 645

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Brashear, you're recognized to open on LB 645.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm going to approach this this morning...first of all, I will tell you I'm looking forward to it, because I made the commitment to you that...when I asked you to consider me as your Speaker, I said that I would not carry the usual volume of legislation that I had. And I hope you feel like I've been faithful to that commitment, because this will be the first opportunity I've had for extended debate on the floor. And I've looked forward to it. I have time, I think, to thoroughly talk about this matter and to bring you up to date, which is my responsibility, to tell you where we started, how we have moved forward, and who has been involved. This is a classic example of one methodology of endeavoring to legislate public policy. And it's certainly not about me. But I will tell you that as your Speaker, I do feel a responsibility to share, sometimes, the way we do things, particularly if they're not all open and obvious to those not experienced in watching or involved. And so I am going to use this as sort of an explanation as I go along. I'd first of all like to tell you how I came to this subject matter, among other ways. When I came to the Legislature,...and I'm talking about technology, but I'd like to share with you a common citizen's approach to technology. When I came to the Legislature 11 years ago, I had to petition, as is required by the rules, the Executive Committee, Executive Board, to allow me to have a private phone line, et cetera, and fax line, that I paid for myself, because it was absolutely essential to me to be able to maintain contact with my business. And so I have had a fax machine the whole time that I've been here. And that fax machine was not only used frantically, in the opening days 11 years ago, by me, but by other members of the body who wanted to...knew that I had it and wanted to use it. And so I view my journey here with you as being sort of an example of what's happening in technology. And I had to keep track of urgent matters and telephone messages and so on, either with a beeper or with a fax machine. And they would beep me or page me on my waist, and I would run to my office at the first available opportunity and attend to things. Well, this morning, as I talk to you, in violation of no rule, regulation, or